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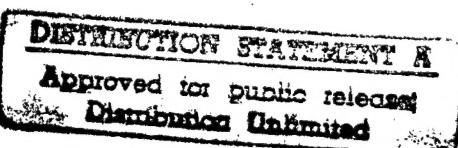
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REPORT ON THE 1957-1959 SCIENTIFIC WORK IN SEISMOLOGY  
ON THE EARTH'S INTERIOR

By the Committee on Geodesy and Geophysics,  
Academy of Sciences USSR



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REPORT ON THE 1957-1959 SCIENTIFIC WORK IN SEISMOLOGY  
ON THE EARTH'S INTERIOR

[Following is the translation of the unsigned book Soobshcheniye o nauchnykh rabotakh po seysmologii i fizike nedr zemli 1957-1959 gg., published by the Committee on Geodesy and Geophysics of the Academy of Sciences USSR, Moscow, 1960, pages 1-145.]

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
I. Seismology	1
1. Information on USSR Seismological Organizations	1
a. Scientific Research Organizations	1
b. Seismic Stations	2
II. General Information on Seismic Work	10
1. Study of Seismicity and Analysis of Seismic Observations	15
2. The Earth's Structure From Seismic Data	22
3. Conditions and Causes of Earthquakes	26
4. Seismic Differentiation Into Regions and Seismic Resistance of Structures	27
5. Theoretical and Experimental Study of Seismic Waves	31
6. Seismic Equipment	37
7. Microseisms. Tsunami.	41

Table of Contents (continued)

	<u>Page</u>
III. Seismogeology	44
Bibliography	45
IV. Physics of the Earth's Interior	47
Annotation of Most Important Works	49
Bibliography	55
V. Tectonophysics	61
Bibliography	63
VI. Absolute Age	75
1. Main Results of the Studies	76
2. The Urals and Bashkiria	77
3. The Baltic and the Ukrainian Crystalline Shields	78
4. The Age Determination for Igneous Rocks of Kazakhstan	79
5. The Caucasus	79
6. Tuva	80
7. Central Asia	80
Bibliography	81
1959 Bibliography	100

## I. SEISMOLOGY

### 1. Information on Seismological USSR Organizations.

#### a. Scientific Research Organizations

The central scientific organization for seismological research is the Institute of Physics of the Earth (formerly the Geophysical Institute) of the Academy of Sciences USSR (Moscow).

Scientific research in this Institute is carried on in the following main fields:

The study of earthquakes occurring within the Soviet Union, with an analysis and generalization of seismic observations; compilation of seismic maps; study of the physical and geologic causes and conditions of earthquakes; study of seismic waves for devising new methods of interpretation of seismic data; study of regularities in the effect of seismic phenomena on structures; devising and carrying out methods of dividing the USSR into seismic regions; modeling of seismic processes; devising new types of seismic equipment; and study of the internal structure of the Earth from seismic data.

Research in seismology is also being carried on in affiliates of the Academy of Sciences USSR, located in seismically active provinces: The Siberian Section of the Academy (Novosibirsk); the Sakhalin Joint Scientific Research Institute (Island of Sakhalin); the Moldavian (Kishinev) and the Kola (Murmansk); and also in the Academies of the union republics (Azerbaijani, Armenian, Georgian, Kazakh, Kirgiz, Tadzhik, Turkmen, Uzbek, and Ukrainian). Some of these Academies have created specialized organizations, such as the Geophysics Institute of the Georgian SSR (Stalinabad); Institute of Physics and Geophysics, Turkmen SSR (Ashkhabad); Seismology Section of the Academy of Sciences Kirgiz SSR (Frunze); and Seismic Sector of the Academy of Sciences Ukrainian SSR (Lvov).

The main field of scientific research for the affiliates of the Academy of Sciences USSR and for the several organizations of the union republics' Academies is the detailed study of the seismicity of their respective regions, the study of earthquake effects, and the working out of other scientific problems in cooperation with the Institute of Physics of the Earth, Academy of Sciences USSR, and with other organizations.

Seismic research as applied to the study of volcanoes and their activity is carried on at the Volcanology Laboratory, Academy of Sciences USSR, which maintains specialized observation stations on Kamchatka.

The Moscow State University (Department of Physics of the Earth's Crust) carries on the study of the internal structure of the Earth and does research on equipment for the observation of microseismic waves.

Development of the dynamic theory of elastic waves is carried on at the Leningrad State University.

The direction and coordination of all seismic work in the Soviet Union is entrusted to the Seismology Council of the Academy of Sciences USSR.

This Council meets twice a year, to discuss the results of scientific work in seismology, to work out plans of forthcoming projects and new institutions, and to deliberate on scientific topics in the field of seismology.

Seismologists from all scientific organizations engaged in seismology usually participate in the Seismology Council meetings.

As a result of such meetings, new tasks are delineated and the work is planned and coordinated.

The Seismology Council is organizing a single method of observation at seismic stations; it also issues a manual for their staffs, and publishes a quarterly Byulleten' seti seysmicheskikh stantsiy SSSR (Bulletin of Seismic-Station Network of the USSR) and a scientific Byulleten' Soveta po seysmologii (Bulletin of the Seismology Council).

#### b. Seismic Stations

There is a total of 106 seismic stations in the Soviet Union. They are sponsored by various departments and organizations; their activity is coordinated by the Seismology Council, Academy of Sciences USSR.

The stations are divided into three classes: teleseismic, general, and regional.

The purpose of a few teleseismic stations is to study general seismicity and the internal structure of the Earth as well as microseismic waves of type I. The stations are equipped with B. B. Golitsin seismographs with galvanometric recording. The instrument constants are  $T_1 \approx T_2 \approx 12$  sec; damping  $D_1 = D_2 = 1$ ; maximum magnification,  $V_{max} \approx 1000$ .

---

Note here and elsewhere:

$$T_1 = \frac{2\pi}{n_1} \text{ and } T_2 = \frac{2\pi}{n_2}$$

-- vibration periods for pendulum proper and for galvanometer, respectively.

$$D_1 = \frac{\xi_1}{n_1} \text{ and } D_2 = \frac{\xi_2}{n_2}$$

-- damping constants for pendulum and galvanometer, respectively.

The general-type stations are designed to copy with the same problems as the teleseismic, and are also used for the study of seismicity in the USSR and the mechanism and energy of earthquakes and the structure of the earth's crust.

These stations use the D. P. Kirnos seismographs with galvanometric recording (SGK and SVK). The instrument constants are as follows:  $T_1 \approx 12.5$  sec;  $T_2 \approx 1.2$  sec;  $D_1 \approx$

$0.45$ ;  $D_2 \approx 5.0$ ;  $\bar{V} \approx 1000-2000$  with periods of  $0.25-10$  sec;  $\delta^2 \leq 0.1$  (for SGK);  $\delta^2 = 0.2-0.3$  (for SVK).

The regional-type stations are for the detailed study of seismicity in individual seismic regions.

These stations are equipped chiefly with highly sensitive D. A. Kharin seismographs with galvanometric recording (GSKh and VSKh). The instrument constants are as follows:  $T_1 = 0.6-1$  sec;  $T_2 = 0.2-0.4$  sec;  $D_1 = 0.5-1$  sec;  $D_2 = 1.5-2$ ;  $\delta^2 \approx 0.3$ ;  $V_{max} = 10,000-50,000$  with periods of  $0.2-0.5$  sec.

Some stations of this type are equipped with D. P. Kirnos VEGIK electrodynamic vibrographs ( $T_2 = 0.6$ ;  $D_1 = 0.5$ ;  $T_2 = 0.06$ ;  $D_2 = 3.0$ ;  $\bar{V} \approx 18,000$ ;  $\delta^2 = 0.2$ ).

To register strong earthquakes, D. P. Kirnos SMR-2 mechanically registering seismographs are installed ( $T_1 = 5.0$  sec;  $D_1 = 0.45$ ;  $V = 7$ ).

For the experimental recording of surface waves, long-period seismographs are installed at some stations.

$\varepsilon_1$  and  $\varepsilon_2$  -- damping coefficients for pendulum and galvanometer, respectively.

$V$  and  $\bar{V}$  -- magnification factor.

$\delta^2 = \delta_1 \cdot \delta_2$  -- bond constant.

$\delta_1$  and  $\delta_2$  -- factors characterizing the electric bond between pendulum and galvanometer, in differential equations of a seismograph with galvanometric recording.

$$\ddot{\theta} = 2\varepsilon_1 \dot{\theta} + n_1^2 \theta = -\frac{\ddot{x}}{e} + 2\varepsilon_1 \delta_1 \psi$$

$$\ddot{\psi} + 2\varepsilon_2 \dot{\psi} +$$

$$n_2^2 \psi = 2\varepsilon_2 \delta_2 \theta$$

$\theta$  and  $\psi$  --- angular deflections of pendulum and the galvanometer frame from the equilibrium position;  $x$  is the ground shift.

Table

Station Name	Sponsoring Organization	Geographic Coordinates		Instrument Make
		N	E°	
1	2	3	4	
Moscow	Inst. of Physics of the Earth	55°44'37"38'	Golitsin and Kирнос	
Abastumani	Geophysical Inst. AS (Academy of Sciences) Georgian SSR	41 45 42 50	Kharin	
Alma-Ata	Inst. of Physics of the Earth	43 16 76 57	Kирнос (galvanom. and mech. recording)	
Alma-Ata 2	"	43 16 77 23	Kирнос and Kharin	
Alushta	"	44 42 34 25	Kharin	
Andizhan	"	40 45 72 22	Kирнос (galvanom. and mech. recording)	
Apatity	Kola Affiliate, AS USSR	67 33 33 26	Kирнос and Kharin	
Aurakhmat	Inst. of Physics of the Earth	41 35 70 07	Kирнос vibrograph	
Akhalkalaki	Geophysical Inst., AS Georgian SSR	41 24 43 29	Kharin	
Ashkhabad	Inst. of Physics and Geophysics, ASTurkmen SSR	37 57 58 21	Kирнос (galvanom. and mech. recording)	
Bayram-Ali	Inst. of Physics of the Earth	37 36 62 07	Kирнос	
Baku	Inst. of Physics of the Earth	40 23 49 54	Golitsin and Kирнос	
Bakuriani	"	41 44 43 31	Kharin and Kирнос	
Bogdanovka	Geophysical Inst., AS Georgian SSR	41 16 43 36	Kharin	
Borzhomi	"	41 50 43 23	Kирнос	
Vannovskaya	Inst. of Physics and Geophysics, AS Turkmen SSR	37 57 58 06	Kирнос vibrograph	
Vladivostok	Inst. of Physics of the Earth	43 07 131 54	Kирнос	
Gal'va-Say	"	41 32 69 54	Kирнос vibrograph	
Garm	"	39 00 70 19	Kирнос	
Gegechkori	Geophysical Inst., AS Georgian SSR	42 21 42 23	Kharin	

Table (continued)

1	2	3	4
Gissar	Inst. of Seismic- Resistant Construction and Seismology, AS Tadzhik SSR	38 28 68 34	Kirnos vibro- graph
Gori	Geophysical Inst., AS Georgian SSR	41 59 44 07	Kirnos
Goris	Inst. of Physics of the Earth	39 30 46 20	Kirnos Kharin
Gornyy	"	44 56 147 34	Kirnos vibro- graph
Groznyy	"	43 19 45 42	Kirnos
Dzhafir	"	39 06 70 35	Kirnos vibro- graph
Dzhergetal	"	39 13 71 14	Kirnos Kirnos vibro- graph
Dusheti	Geophysical Inst., AS Georgian SSR	42 05 44 42	Kharin
Yerevan	Inst. of Physics of the Earth	40 11 44 30	Kirnos
Zimchurud	Inst. of Seismic- Resistant Construction and Seismology, AS Tadzhik SSR	38 46 68 38	Kirnos vibro- graph
Zugdidi	Geophys. Inst., AS Georgian SSR	42 31 41 53	Kharin
Ili	Inst. of Physics of the Earth	43 55 77 06	Kharin
Irkutsk	Siberian Affiliate, AS USSR	52 16 104 19	Golitsin and Kirnos
Ishtion	Inst. of Physics of the Earth	38 50 70 47	Kirnos vibro- graph
Kabansk	Siberian Affiliate, AS USSR	52 03 106 39	Kirnos
Kara-Su	Inst. of Seismic- Resistant Construction and Seismology, AS Tadzhik SSR	38 29 68 59	Kirnos vibro- graph
Kizil-Arvat	Inst. of Physics of the Earth	39 12 56 16	Kirnos
Kirovabad	"	40 39 46 20	Kirnos and Kharin
Kishinev	Moldavian Affiliate, AS USSR	47 01 28 50	Kirnos

Table (continued)

1	2	3	4
Klyuchi	Volcanology Laboratory USSR	56 19 160 52	Kirnos
Kosmodem'-yansk	Sakhalin Joint Institute (Sakhalin Island), AS USSR	44 06 145 53	Kirnos vibro-graph
Krasnaya Polyana	Inst. of Physics of the Earth	43 40 40 12	Kirnos vibro-graph
Kulyub	Inst. of Seismic-Resistant Construction and Seismology, AS	37 54 69 45	Kirnos (galvanom. and mech. recording
Kuril'sk	Sakhalin Joint Institute, AS USSR	45 14 147 52	Kirnos
Kurmenty	Inst. of Physics of the Earth	43 00 78 17	Kharin
Kyakhta	Siberian Affiliate, AS USSR	50 22 106 27	Kirnos
Leninakan	AS Armenian SSR	40 46 43 51	Inst. of Seismology, AS USSR
Lenkoran'	Inst. of Physics of the Earth	38 46 43 51	Nikiforov
Lunacharskoye	Inst. of Mathematics and Mechanics, AS	41 20 69 21	Kirnos
L'vov	Seismic Sector, AS Ukrainian SSR	49 49 24 02	Kirnos
Magadan	Main Geol. Admin. RSFSR	59 33 150 48	Kirnos
Makhachkala	Inst. of Physics of the Earth	42 58 47 30	Kirnos
Mirnyy	Antarctic Expedition, AS USSR	66 33 93 00	Kirnos
Muskinabad	Inst. of Physics of the Earth	38 41 69 39	Kirnos vibro-graph
Murgab	"	38 22 73 56	Kirnos
Namangan	"	40 59 71 40	Kirnos
Naryn	"	41 26 75 59	Kirnos
Nakhichevan'	"	39 12 45 24	Kirnos
Lesozavodsk	"	44 46 147 11	Kirnos vibro-graph
Napay	"	41 43 70 07	Kirnos vibro-graph

Table (continued)

1	2	3	4
Nurek	Inst. of Seismic- Resistant Construc- tion and Seismology, AS Tadzhik SSR	38 24 69 20	Kirnos vibro- graph
Ob-Garm	"	38 43 69 43	Kirnos (gal- vanom. and mech. re- cording)
Okha	Sakhalin Joint Insti- tute, AS USSR	55 33 142 56	Kirnos
Petropavlovsk	Inst. of Physics of na Kamchatke the Earth	53 01 158 39	Kirnos (gal- vanom. and mech. re- cording)
Przheval'sk	"	42 29 78 24	Kharin
Pulkovo	"	59 46 30 19	Golitsin and Kirnos
Pyatigorsk	"	44 02 43 04	Kirnos
Rakhov	Seismic Sector, AS Ukrainian SSR	47 56 24 10	Kharin
Rybachiye	Inst. of Physics of the Earth	42 27 76 11	Kirnos
Samarkand	Inst. of Mathematics and Mechanics, AS Uzbek SSR	39 40 66 59	Kirnos
Sverdlovsk	Inst. of Physics of the Earth	56 50 60 38	Golitsin Kharin
Severo- Kuril'sk	Sakhalin Joint Insti- tute, AS USSR	50 40 156 06	Kirnos
Semipalatinsk	Inst. of Physics of the Earth	50 24 80 15	Kirnos
Simferopol'	"	44 57 34 07	Kirnos Kharin
Sochi	"	43 35 39 43	Kirnos
Stalinabad	Inst. Seismic- Resistant Construc- tion and Seismology, AS Tadzhik SSR	38 34 68 46	Kirnos (gal- vanom. and mech. re- cording), Nikiforov, Kirnos vibro- graph, Kharin
Stepanavan	AS Armenia SSR	41 00 44 23	Kharin

Table (continued)

1	2	3	4
Sultan-Mazar	Inst. of Physics of the Earth	38 28 70 04	Kirnos vibrograph
Tavil'-Dara	"	38 41 70 29	Kirnos vibrograph
Tashkent	"	41 20 69 18	Golitsin Kirnos (mech. rec.)
Revdovoye	Sakhalin Joint Inst., AS USSR	45 16 148 02	Kirnos vibrograph
Tbilisi	Geophysical Inst., AS Georgian SSR	41 43 44 48	Golitsin
Tiksi	Inst. of Physics of the Earth	71 38 128 52	Kirnos Kharin
Turbat	"	41 44 69 39	Kirnos vibrograph
Uglegorsk	Sakhalin Joint Institute, AS USSR	49 05 142 04	Kirnos
Uzhgorod	Seismic Sector, AS Ukrainian SSR	48 38 22 18	Kharin
Fabrichnaya	Inst. of Physics of the Earth	43 08 76 26	Kharin
Feodosiya	"	45 01 35 23	Kirnos
Ferghana	"	40 23 71 47	Kirnos
Frunze	"	42 50 74 37	Kirnos
Kheys	Armenian-Azerbaydzhan Scientific Research Inst.	80 37 58 03	Kirnos vibrograph
Khodzhikent	Inst. of Physics of the Earth	41 37 69 58	Kirnos vibrograph
Kherog	"	37 29 71 32	Kirnos (galvanom. and mech. recording)
Khorongon	Inst. of Seismic-Resistant Construction and Seismology, AS Tadzhik SSR	38 40 68 47	Kirnos
Chernovtsy	Chernovtsy State Univ.	48 17 25 56	Nikiforov
Chernovtsy-2	Seismic Sector, AS Ukrainian SSR	48 18 25 56	Kirnos
Chilik	Inst. of Physics of the Earth	43 34 78 25	Kharin
Chimkent	"	42 19 69 36	Kirnos

Table (continued)

1	2	3	4
Chusal	Inst. of Physics of the Earth	39 06 70 46	Kirnos vibro- graph
Chuyan-Garon	"	38 39 69 10	Kirnos vibro- graph
Shemakha	"	40 38 48 38	Kirnos
Yuzno-Sakhal- insk	Sakhalin Joint Inst., AS USSR	47 01 142 43	Kirnos
Yakutsk	Yakutsk Affiliate, AS USSR	62 01 128 43	Kirnos
Yaldymych	Inst. of Physics of the Earth	39 04 70 27	Kirnos vibro- graph
Yalta	"	44 30 34 10	Kirnos (mec. rec.)
Shikotan	"	43 52 146 49	Kirnos vibro- graph

## II. GENERAL INFORMATION ON SEISMIC WORK

In the current period, seismic work proceeded along the lines set forth in the preceding period (see Soobshcheniye o nauchnykh rabotakh po seismologii i fizika nedr zemli /Communication on Scientific Work in the Field of Seismology and Physics of the Earth/ Academy of Sciences USSR Publishing House, Moscow, 1957). Specific data on the results for the current period can be obtained from the bibliography appended. The research can be subdivided into the following groups:

1. Study of seismicity and an analysis of seismic observations;
2. The Earth's structure from seismic data;
3. Conditions and causes of earthquakes;
4. Seismic differentiation of regions and seismic resistance of structures;
5. Theoretical and experimental study of seismic waves;
6. Seismic equipment;
7. Microseisms. Tsunami.

General information on the results obtained in these fields is given below.

The study of seismicity consists of the study of the regional distribution of earthquakes and of devising and developing methods of study in seismicity, chiefly of individual regions, on the basis of more precise and detailed instrument observations and from geologic (tectonic) data. Considerable attention was paid to evaluation of the intensity of earthquakes on the conventional M scale and by determining the energy flux in oscillations.

The current years have witnessed a study of the geologic structure and the field of weak aftershocks of pleistoseismic provinces of some strong earthquakes in Central Asia, the Caucasus, the Far East, and Eastern Siberia. The purpose of this work was a more detailed knowledge of seismic activity in areas of strong earthquakes, which is essential for a more precise differentiation into seismic areas, for earthquake-damage prevention and for a determination of the conditions and causes of earthquakes.

In addition, data from many years of earthquake observations at seismic stations of the Soviet Union (the Caucasus, Kuriles-Kamchatka zone, Central Asia, etc.) were summarized and analysed in the light of the intensity of earthquakes and of tectonic data, which is important for revealing the relationship between earthquakes and the structural features of the Earth's crust.

Following the schedule of the International Geophysical Year, the USSR carried on a study of seismicity of the Arctic

and participated in the study of seismicity of the Antarctic and its ice pack. The data from the Arctic seismic stations were used in locating the epicenters of Arctic earthquakes along the Lomonosov Range.

In analyzing the seismic data, emphasis was placed on the development of methods of determining earthquake foci and on means of determining their intensity from instrumental data. This is necessary in connection with the generalization of data from the network of seismic stations in the USSR, having as its final goal the more precise seismic differentiation of the country. New time-distance curves have been constructed of a regional character, which permit the more precise determination of the earthquake foci.

A systematic analysis of data from all seismic stations in the USSR -- with its results, the coordinates of foci, and the intensity of earthquakes -- was published in the quarterly bulletin of the USSR seismic network by the Seismology Council. In connection with the growing network of seismic stations, the number of recorded earthquakes has grown considerably, reaching 16,000 in 1959.

In the field of study of the causes and conditions of earthquakes, research has been conducted along the lines of determining forecasting criteria and of studying earthquake foci and the geological criteria of seismicity.

Progress was made in the study of stresses and the nature of displacements in earthquake foci on the basis of the theory of disturbances. It has been established that earthquakes in the area of Hindukush and the northwestern Pacific island arcs are related to compressive horizontal stresses. General conclusions have been arrived at from the study of the earthquakes' foci through their representation by concentrated sources.

In order to get insight into possible processes taking place in earthquake foci, a study has been carried out of the break in continuity of rocks on laboratory models and through a study of folding and faulting dislocations in the Earth's crust in the several active seismic zones of the Soviet Union.

A study of seismic conditions in the Garm and Stalinabad areas of the Tadzhik SSR has yielded preliminary data on the possibility of studying the seismic conditions during strong earthquakes.

The study of the Earth's structure from seismic data includes a study of its deep interior as well as of its crust. The last two years witnessed the development and broad application of the deep seismic sounding method, based on the correlation of waves refracted and reflected by the divisions of the Earth's crust.

Extensive work in deep seismic sounding has been done in the transitional zone from the Asian continent to the Pacific. Regions of the Earth's crust of different types have been isolated: the oceanic, the continental, and the transitional. It has been shown that the transition from the Sea of Okhotsk to the continent in the Magadan area is accompanied by a sharp plunge of the Mohorovicic division.

The structure of the Earth's crust in Eurasia and the Arctic Ocean has been studied from data on the velocity of propagation and dispersion of Rayleigh and Love waves.

A study of the amplitude range of seismic waves has shown that the low-velocity layer is at least 200-km deep and has a fairly definite boundary. A study of the amplitudes of compressional and polarized seismic waves, and a modeling of foci in accordance with the disturbance theory, have shown the presence in the Earth's crust of layers causing birefringency.

The study of seismic waves was both theoretical and experimental. The theoretical study was chiefly of waves propagating in plane-stratified media. Emphasis was placed on studying the nature of refracted waves. As a result, formulas were obtained determining the oscillation nature of refracted waves as a function of parameters of a stratified medium. Considerable attention was given to the study of interference waves (surface waves in a stratified medium), with general theoretical results obtained for waves in the presence of axially symmetrical sources. Deserving of notice among experimental works is research on the absorption of energy of seismic waves due to imperfect elasticity. The waves' propagation was studied on a model by means of ultrasonic impulse installations and by using the stroboscopic method, with special attention paid to a model study of refracted and surface waves.

The work on seismic differentiation and seismic resistance of structures was developed chiefly in response to practical demands. The main effort was directed toward a further refinement of seismic differentiation of the Soviet Union on the basis of a study of the most recent tectonics throughout the USSR, observations at field and general-type seismic stations, and instrument observations. As a result, a new and improved seismic-differentiation map of the USSR has been compiled. In refining seismic-differentiation maps considerable attention was paid to the study of the mobility of individual segments of the Earth's crust separated by deep-seated faults.

A study was initiated of statistical regularities in the reoccurrence of earthquakes within the broad range of the seismic energy of their foci, beginning with weaker and more frequent ones. The purpose of this work, carried on chiefly in Central Asia, is to devise better qualitative

---

methods of seismic differentiation, with a quantitative evaluation of seismic activity as determined by the average recurrence of destructive earthquakes.

The work of micro-differentiation into seismic areas was continued; its main purpose is to determine the effect of geologic structure and the nature of ground on the intensity and the character of oscillations in areas of contemplated construction. Work in this field was carried out in strong earthquake zones in the Caucasus, with special field instrument observations made for this purpose. The physical base for such micro-differentiation was the data on oscillations under various geologic conditions and with a different ratio of the wave length to the thickness of sedimentary rocks.

In developing the methods of designing earthquake-proof buildings, the statistically typical range of vibrations was studied simultaneously for the foundation and for different points of a building during earthquakes. A number of projects were designed to develop a theory for seismic-resistant structures.

The work of designing new equipment was concentrated on the development of seismographs recording the ground vibration in a wide range of periods, with their constant increase; also devices recording very weak proximate earthquakes. A new type of equipment has been worked out to measure small inclinations of the surface and to record vibrations during strong earthquakes. Work is in progress on direct recording of the energy of seismic waves.

The study of microseisms was carried on to determine the relationship between their sources -- cyclones and storms in oceans and seas -- and the intensity of their field as observed at permanent seismic stations and at triple microseismic stations, affording a direction determination for the microseism source. In the MIT period, six triple microseismic stations have been set up. Three of them (Vyborg, Murmansk, and Barentsburg) were to observe the Atlantic microseisms, and three (Yuzhnyy Sakhalinsk, Petropavlovsk, and Vladivostok) to watch the northeastern Pacific. The difficulties involved in this setup made it imperative to improve the method of determining the position of a source from observations at distant seismic stations. With this in mind, the effect of different oceanic depths on the phase velocity of short period Rayleigh waves was studied, and a method of evaluating the refraction of the microseism propagation path in the ocean has been evolved.

A model with the ultrasonic seismoscope was used for determining the effect of surface relief, such as in Scandinavia, on the intensity of microseisms in their propagation from the Atlantic to continental seismic stations. It has been shown that the maximum microseism absorption occurs when its path crosses fjords at about 45°.

In the field of tsunami, the effort during the current period was concentrated on the warning service against the appearance of tsunami on the Kurile-Kamchatka coast during strong earthquakes out in the ocean. Special rapid-action seismic equipment has been designed and built for this purpose, which makes it possible to determine in a few minutes the epicenter of a strong earthquake. Such equipment has been installed at Petropavlovsk, Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk, and Kuril'sk. For greater certainty in forecasting the appearance of a tsunami during an earthquake out in the ocean, a map has been compiled from an analysis of past earthquakes of those zones most affected by tsunami waves during strong earthquakes. This map shows stretches of the coast which are most and least dangerous because of tsunami on the basis of geomorphological and other data. For an operational determination of the possibility of tsunami from the instrument data on the epicenter position and the intensity of an earthquake, a Japanese-type diagram has been constructed for tsunami forecasting on the basis of distance from the epicenter and the amplitude as recorded on a seismogram.

Material on the 4-5 November 1952 tsunami has been analyzed. It shows that the average height of tsunami waves along a 1,000-km stretch of the Kurile-Kamchatka coast, from Ust'-Kamchatsk to the Maua Island, attained 7-8 m. A maximum height of about 20 m was recorded on Paramushir Island. Certain relationships between the coast line, coastal relief, and the height of the tsunami wave has been established.

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### III. SEISMOGEOLOGY

In 1956-1959, the study of the relationship between geologic phenomena and earthquakes, or seismogeology, went on chiefly at the Institute of Physics of the Earth, Academy of Sciences USSR.

As before, this study had a dual purpose. On one hand, it was necessary to refine, in instances of different geologic structures and different degree of seismicity, the relationship between seismic and geologic phenomena which had been suggested by the preceding study, and to investigate more penetratingly the emerging regularities in their capacity as geologic criteria of seismicity. On the other hand, it was necessary to refine on the basis of these regularities, the methods of geologic substantiation for the seismic differentiation maps in the process of making by the Institute, from both seismic and geologic data.

Major field work in this field was done in the Tien-Shan, Northern Pamirs, in some areas of the Caucasus, and partly in the Far East. Other regions were covered by publications -- such as the Baikal-Altai province, and regions of Mongolia, Iran, China, and Turkey, adjacent to the USSR.

As a result of this work, regularities in the relationship between seismic and geologic phenomena in the western part of the USSR have become more definite. Quantitative computations of the velocity of most recent vertical tectonic movements, together with a parallel analysis of these data and of instrument data on earthquakes, were a basis for the first attempt at a geologic substantiation of seismic differentiation maps on a larger scale (such as the 1:500,000 map of Northern Tien-Shan) than had been done before.

At the suggestion of V. V. Belousov, the European Seismological Commission of the Association of Seismology and Physics of the Earth, International Geodetic and Geophysical Union, has adopted a resolution on compiling a seismotectonic map of Europe. To acquaint the participants in this project with the principles of such work as adopted in the USSR, they have been mailed appropriate material as a tentative instruction.

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#### IV. PHYSICS OF THE EARTH'S INTERIOR

The central scientific organization which carries on the study of physics of the deep interior of the Earth is the Institute of Physics of the Earth, Academy of Sciences USSR. Work in the same field has been carried on by a number of other organizations, the most important of which are as follows:

Institute of Geochemistry and Analytic Chemistry, Academy of Sciences (AS) USSR;

Institute of Geochemistry, AS Georgian SSR;

Institute of Seismically Stable Construction and Seismology, AS Tadzhik SSR;

Institute of Physics and Geophysics, AS Turkmen SSR;

Moscow State University;

Leningrad State University;

The Volcanology Laboratory, AS USSR.

The work has been carried on in the following fields: Study of the thermal history of the Earth in connection with the theory of its origin; heat exchange under the conditions deep in the interior of the Earth; and a refinement of the fusing temperature-depth curve. In the latter field, the problem of the thermal state of the Earth has been considered for both the abrupt and gradual differentiation of its interior. The conclusion is that the temperature status in the upper parts of the Earth essentially depends on the differentiation scheme accepted. The problem of the Earth's temperature at the early stages of its existence was clarified. The thermodynamics of the Earth's mantle has been computed. The mechanism of fusing was considered, with the appropriate curves derived. Also considered was the effect of different heat-exchange mechanisms on the Earth's temperature.

In the field of study of the physical properties and composition of the several shells of the Earth and of the nature of its main seismic divisions, the conditions equations were considered for some substances by using the results of experiments with high pressures and theoretical methods of solid state physics. Consideration was given to some assumptions of altered types of bond with the change in pressure, and to the changes in chemistry with depth. The status of the main physical parameters of the Earth's substance, with depth, was analyzed. The presence of a tide phase lag in a solid Earth has been established from the data on tides in the Earth's body. New data on the rigidity modulus for the Earth's nucleus have been obtained. The problem of the presence and nature of wave conductors in the Earth's mantle was considered.

In the field of study of the origin of the Earth's crust and of the processes of its development, the processes of isolation of the Earth's crust substance from meteorite matter were considered. The structure of the Earth's crust was studied from seismic and gravity data, along with a study of its present movements and with that of isostatic compensation, especially in the region of Antarctic glaciation.

Specific results of this work can be obtained from scientific papers (see Bibliography). The most interesting papers in the list are annotated.

## ANNOTATION OF MOST IMPORTANT WORKS

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temperature as a function of pressure. It is assumed that fusing takes place when the concentration of deficiencies in a crystalline body reaches a definite value. It is further assumed that the abrupt increase in electroconductance in a transition layer (at a depth of about 400-700 km) is connected with the change to semi-conductor alloy conductance.

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## V. TECTONOPHYSICS

The main results of tectonophysical studies in the USSR, up to and including 1956, have been set forth both in an abbreviated (1) and an expanded form (36). In 1957-1959, regular tectonophysical study was conducted chiefly at the following Scientific Organizations:

At the Institute of Physics of the Earth, AS USSR, work proceeded in connection with problems of forecasting earthquakes, the origin of folding, and the internal structure and development of the Earth. Extensive field work was carried on in the Caucasus and Central Asia, as well as work with models and the development of models, and the study of the physico-mechanical properties of rocks.

At the beginning of 1957, the Institute called the First All-Union Tectonophysical Conference on Tectonics, Physics, Geophysics, Minerals, and Engineering Geology. A report on this Conference has been published (92), along with its full resolution (93) formulating the basic problems of further study.

The mechanism of folding has been studied, both in the field and in the laboratory, at the State University imeni Lomonosov. The Institute of Geology of Mineral Deposits, AS USSR, continued its study of the physico-mechanical properties of rocks and the formation of hydrothermal ore deposits.

To a smaller extent, tectonophysical work was carried on by a number of other organizations, such as the All-Union Scientific-Research Institute of Petroleum Geology, the Geological Institute of the AS Ukrainian SSR, Geological Institute of the Siberian Section of the AS USSR, and the Moscow Geologic Exploration Institute.

The following principal tectonophysical concepts were either advanced or supported by field data from many regions of the USSR in 1957-1959:

1. The idea of a limited distribution of morphologically full folding in geo-synclinal provinces and of the preponderance in them of morphologically intermediate folding types (8, 36, 38, 85).

2. The idea of long duration in the making of intermediate type folds in geo-synclinal provinces, with a considerable disparity in the rate of their development (36).

3. The concept that the leading part in the folding mechanism within geo-synclinal provinces belongs to displacement of large and small plastic basement blocks, resulting in the general step-ladder structure of folded zones and determining the very broad development of the box type folding (8-11, 36, 38, 45, 46, 81, 94, 105).

4. The great importance of the recurrent reversal in the relative displacement of adjacent blocks in the development of the Earth's crust structure, with the possibility of intensive folding and of initiating long and narrow grabens and horsts along these blocks, as a result of such movement (11, 36, 38, 45, 46, 81).

5. The effect of the mechanical properties of stratified sequences on their deformation under a longitudinal compressive stress, along with the nature of physical conditions of the origin of such longitudinal flexures (35, 36, 106, 107).

6. The mechanism and the conditions of development of gravitational buoyance folds and diapirs (11, 59-61, 66).

7. The long duration of the process of forming major faults by consolidation of smaller ones, which may determine the relationship between the mineralization of major and minor faults and the ratio of the number of strong and weak earthquakes (15, 25, 32, 36, 73, 76, 77).

8. Concepts substantiating the quantitative relationship between tectonic movements (first of all the velocity gradient for tectonic movements) and the energy and the recurrence of earthquakes in time; also maps of the earthquake foci (4, 14, 32, 38, 39, 41, 85, 104, 116).

9. Concepts of types of tectonic deformations, stressed states, and breaks, favorable for the formation of ore and oil deposits; emphasis was put on the anisotropy of deformed bodies of rocks; on the long duration of the stress development; on the alternation in time of the compression and tension phases. [References omitted in source.]

10. Elasticity moduli as a function of mineral composition, structure, porosity and geologic history of rocks, their stress and temperature, also of the dynamic and static load (5, 17, 19-22, 49-52, 64, 78, 79, 80, 86, 87, 91, 103).

11. Plasticity of various minerals and rocks (carbonates, barite, quartz) and the considerable permeability of plastic deformation zones in ore-bearing rocks, to vapors and solutions of metals (31, 42, 43, 53, 62, 63, 88, 89, 99).

12. The strength of rocks as a function of their mineral composition, structure, porosity, and geological history (16, 18, 48, 52, 79, 100).

13. Principles, methods, equipment, and material used in modeling tectonic phenomena, and the evaluation of the results of such modeling. A number of plastic substances was evolved and tested in determining stresses in plastically deforming models, by an optical method. Equipment has been devised for determining the physical properties of models (11, 35, 40, 54.55, 82, 117-119).

Some of the 1957-1959 tectonophysical results are not shown in the following list, because they were published in 1960.

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## VI. ABSOLUTE AGE

In recent years, the work of determining the absolute age of rocks has been especially intensively developed in the several institutes of the AS USSR, in the Academies of Union Republics, at some affiliates of the Academy, and in a number of local scientific research institutions.

All work in this field has been and is now proceeding according to a master plan. In order to unify the geochronological research conducted in various laboratories and to direct them toward a common goal, a Commission for the Determination of the Absolute Age of Geologic Formations has been created at the Section of Geological-Geographic Sciences (OGGN), Academy of Sciences USSR.

This Commission has set up the following basic projects:

1. A domestic geologic time scale, in absolute figures.
2. Dating of main tectonic-igneous stages in geo-synclinal zones of the USSR, in absolute figures.
3. Determining the age of secondary processes substantially affecting the original composition of the magmatic medium.
4. Determining the absolute age of ore deposits.
5. Working out in cooperation with petrographers and regional geologists, of a stratigraphic scale for pre-Cambrian formations of the USSR.

Among the diverse tasks completed recently in the Soviet Union, the following should be particularly noted:

A study of the absolute age determination of sedimentary and metamorphic rocks by the argon method, using glauconite (AS Georgian SSR, Daghestan Affiliate AS USSR and All-Union Geological Institute [VSEGEI]) and phyllitic meta-shales of different age (IGI AS USSR). The results of the absolute age determination for sedimentary rocks were in fair agreement with geological concepts. Experimental study has demonstrated a very important in this respect shift in the isotope ratio of the decay products of uranium and thorium, as an effect of physical and chemical factors (Radium Institute, AS USSR [RIAN]). The occurrence and mobility of radiogenous and non-radiogenous lead isotopes has been studied (RIAN SSSR, Geochemistry Institute AS USSR [GEOKHI AN SSSR], and Moscow State University [MGU]). The carbon method of the age determination has been mastered (RIAN SSSR and GEOKHI AN SSSR).

The use of potassium and sodium in ammonia-oxygen flame for the purposes of photometry (Institute of Geological Sciences [IGN] AS Georgian SSR). A method of isotope

analysis of small amounts of lead (MGU); the determination of  $^{14}O$  in marine sediments for an estimate of the sedimentation rate (RIAN USSR, GEOKHI AS USSR); the strontium method is being worked out in LAGED AS USSR, IGEM AS USSR, IGI AS USSR, and GEOKHI AS USSR.

Of interest is the experiment in determining the age source material in sandstones and shales, which is very important for paleogeographic maps (RIAN USSR); the development of new methods of the age determination, the calcium (VSEGEI) and x-ray spectrum (IGEM AS USSR); the age determination for meteorites, by the lead method, was done at the RIAN SSSR. A pyrochemical method has been worked out for determining the lead content and its isotope composition in iron meteorites, whereby the isolation of some 65-80% lead is possible for samples with a very small content of it ( $10^{-8}$  g/g). It has been shown that the lead concentration in the Sikhote-Alin' and Chinge meteorites is of the order of  $3 \times 10^{-8}$  g/g, while it is greater by one order, in the Hanbury and Diablo Canyon meteorites. Sulfide inclusions from the Sikhote-Alin' and Chinge meteorites contain  $n \times 10^{-6}$  g/g lead.

The results of study of the lead isotope content in the Diablo Canyon meteorite turned out to be similar to those obtained earlier by Patterson for the same meteorite and corresponding to the theoretical concepts of "primordial" lead in the solar system. A quite different lead isotope content has been obtained for the Sikhote-Alin', Chinge, and Hanbury meteorites -- close to that of the present terrestrial lead. The results obtained suggest the possibility of a different origin of these meteorites. Uranium, lead, and its isotope content were determined for six different tektites. The uranium content varies in the range of  $2 \times 10^{-6}$  --  $3 \times 10^{-6}$  g/g; the lead content is  $2 \times 10^{-6}$  --  $8 \times 10^{-6}$  g/g. The isotope lead content is similar to that in terrestrial sedimentary rocks (RIAN SSSR).

## 1. Main Results of the Studies.

The period 1957-1959 witnessed a further development of scientific research on the determination of the absolute age for rocks of the Soviet Union, and an accumulation of numerical data in active geochronological laboratories.

The work of the absolute age determination was continued for rocks and minerals of the Urals, Bashkiria (Ural and Bashkir Affiliates of AS USSR), Karel'a, Kola Peninsula, Sayan, Antarctic, China, and Finland (LAGED AS USSR and RIAN USSR); pre-Cambrian deposits of the Ukraine (IGN AS USSR, GEOKHI AS USSR, RIAN USSR, MGU, and VSEGEI; rocks of Central and Northern Kazakhstan (IGN AS Kazakh SSR, RIAN

USSR), of the Caucasus (IGEM AS USSR, GEOKHI AS USSR, IGN AS Georgian SSR, Armenian SSR, Azerbaydzhan SSR, and the Daghestan Affiliate AS USSR), Trans-Baikalia, and far East (VSEGEI).

The VNII-I (Magadan) continued the work on determination of the absolute age of granitoids in the region of the Yana-Kolyma and Chukotsk geo-synclines.

## 2. The Urals and Bashkiria.

The absolute age data in the Urals were used in identifying the following intrusive stages corresponding to the orogenic phases: the Archaean (1900-2100 million years); Lower Proterozoic (1000-1150 million years old); Lower Paleozoic (440-500 million years old); Middle Paleozoic (320-360 million years old); and Upper Paleozoic (240-270 million years old).

The presence of Mesozoic volcanics (165 million years) also has been established, with the Argon method affording the determination of the absolute age of metamorphic formations and of the metamorphism. The data so obtained suggest the absence in the Urals of a general equalizing metamorphism; they also show that the Ural metamorphics are of different ages and belong to different geologic epochs. Metamorphic alterations are well synchronized with igneous epochs.

Good progress in the determination of the absolute age for igneous and metamorphic rocks has been made by the Bashkiri Affiliate AS USSR. A Carboniferous age has been established for a number of massifs of microcline granodiorites, granodiorites, and granosyenites in the Southern Urals and Mugodzhary, along with a number of pegmatite veins and of certain types of "augengneiss" and migmatites. The absolute age data made it possible to postulate a wide development of Carboniferous metamorphism connected with large intrusions, 210-265 million years old, which is in fair agreement with geological ideas. The Suunduk and Adamovsk massifs have been recognized as the age reference bodies for the Carboniferous. A Silurian age (335-345 million years) has been established for the three older granodiorite massifs, two of which have been designated as the Silurian age reference bodies. An Ordovician age (380-411 million years) has been established for quartz-muscovite veins cutting the Maksyutovsk rocks of the Ural-Tau range. As a result of these investigations, the first variant of a geochronological scale has been compiled for the eastern rim of the Russian platform, the Southern Urals, and Mugodzhary - for the Proterozoic, Rhiphean, and a part of the Paleozoic; in addition, there looms the

necessity of moving the lower boundary of the Carboniferous, back 45-50 million years, as compared with the 1950 scale.

### 3. The Baltic and the Ukrainian Crystalline Shields.

The results obtained for Karel'a, the Kola Peninsula, and Finland are summarized in the capital work of A. A. Polkanov and E. K. Gerling, Geokhronologiya Baltiyskogo shchita po dannym radiologicheskikh metodov opredeleniya vozrasta (Geochronology of the Baltic Shield from the Radiological Data of Age Determination), in which A. A. Polkanov presents a quite novel concept of the geologic history of that segment of the earth-crust. The argon method data suggest four major cycles of sedimentation and metamorphism for the eastern part of the Baltic shield. The orogenic movements were accompanied by five to six acid intrusive cycles. The intrusive activity terminated prior to 1600-1800 million years ago, i.e., prior to the Proterozoic, with the Lower Proterozoic understood in its former meaning of 1000-1500 million years.

The most reliable values are those for the Rapakivi granite of the Hogland epoch, 1640 million years; and for post-Karelian, post-Jotnian Rapakivi granites, 1950 million years.

The most ancient formations in the Baltic shield are certain pegmatites and migmatites whose age is 3000-15,000 million years.

For Scandinavia, an age of 895-965 million years has been obtained for the Gothokareliids and 1090-1005 million years for the Svenofennids, which is less than the age of the Rapakivi and post-Karelian and Svenofennian granites of Finland and Karelia, thus suggesting different ages for the two (three) cycles.

The differentiation of the Ukrainian pre-Cambrian went on in the Institute of the Ukrainian Academy of Science, RIAN USSR, and GEOKHI AS USSR. The many numerical data obtained will constitute the basis of an absolute age scale for post-Rhiphean deposits.

The Radium Institute, AS USSR has at its disposal data on the absolute age of rocks which form the complex group of the Dnieper migmatites.

The oldest age of over 3000 million years has been assigned to meta-amphibolite type rocks. A series of basic granitoids and associated pegmatites, 2700-3000 million years old has been discovered. A long duration has been established for the process of formation of the Dnieper granites, accompanied by a wide development of plagiogranites, with the latest known red aplitic granites, 1750 million years old.

Evidence of a younger epoch of regional metamorphism and igneous activity has been discovered in the Bug and Sinyukha area, about 1600 million years old, corresponding to the formation of the Uman' intrusive complex (1500-1600 million years old). The determination was done by the lead isotope and argon methods; considerable loss of argon from micas of metamorphic gneisses has been established, casting a doubt on the possibility of determining the true age of metamorphics by the argon method.

#### 4. The Age Determination for Igneous Rocks of Kazakhstan.

Data were obtained for the absolute age of the Kazakhstan granite intrusions (RIAN USSR).

A geologic time scale has been proposed for the Paleozoic -- considerably different from former concepts.

The age of late-Hercinian (Permo-Carboniferous) intrusions has been established as 260-320 million years.

The age of early Hercinian (Middle Carboniferous) intrusions -- 340-380 million years.

The age of late Caledonian (Lower Devonian-Ordovician) intrusions, 420-480 million years.

The Cambrian -- pre-Cambrian boundary is estimated as being about 650 million years old.

#### 5. The Caucasus.

##### Geologic Features of the development of the Caucasus.

The results of study of the absolute age of the Caucasian rocks and minerals by the K-Ar method have revealed a complex picture of igneous activity in that structural segment of the Earth's crust.

Groups of extrusive rocks, identified by geologic-geographic study, have been confirmed to considerable extent through determination of their age by radiological methods. The comparatively well-known geologically Caucasian province is at the present time differentiated into a number of structural zones trending chiefly to northwest. The structure of these zones is very diversified and complex.

The absolute age figures obtained for volcanic and partly for metamorphic rocks have made it possible to discern certain general regularities in the geologic structure of the Caucasus.

The oldest extrusive rocks in the Caucasus (of the granitoid group) are intrusions of plagiogranites -- sodium alaskites and pegmatites, corresponding to a final stage of development of the Caledonian geo-syncline or a number of geo-synclines, in the Caucasus.

Relicts of igneous rocks of this stage of development of the Caucasian folded province are known from the Front Range (Peredovoy) zones; granites of the Main Range; the Axial Zone; in the Georgian and Arvin-Somkhit blocks; and apparently in Central Armenia.

The proper geo-synclinal development stages occurred in the Caucasus in the Lower and Middle Paleozoic (the development of Paleozoic series of rocks including the ophiolite formation: ultrabasics and sodium granitoids), in the Mesozoic, and possibly at the Cretaceous-Tertiary boundary.

The post-geo-synclinal, and shallower, downwarping and folding was accompanied by the formation of a series of rocks with a granodiorite-granite-alaskite composition, essentially potassium-bearing.

This geochronologic study has revealed many other features of the evolution of igneous activity for the long (over 400 million years) period of time embracing the Greater Caucasian folding.

## 6. Tuva.

The Tuva Autonomous Province is a comparatively old folded region characterized by a wide development of Caledonian igneous rocks.

The Laboratory of the All-Union Geological Institute has determined, by the argon method, the age of a number of granite intrusions associated with different phases of Caledonian orogeny; also the age of several effusive bodies.

Caledonian rocks of Tuva are 225-495 million years old.

## 7. Central Asia.

Central Asia is very interesting as regards the making of a geochronological scale.

Unlike in the Caucasus, the priority here should be given to establishing the absolute age for tectono-igneous structures of different stages.

The foremost task is to determine the sequence in the growth of mountain ranges from north to south.

By now, two control figures for the absolute age have been determined for a muscovite from the Alai range pegmatites: for the Karavshin pegmatite muscovite, the absolute age, as determined by E. K. Gerling, with argon method, is 218 million years; it is 210 million years, as determined at the Daghestan Affiliate of the AS USSR, an average of 214 million years, which corresponds to Upper Carboniferous.

Other figures for the absolute age - 190 million years for brannerite, and 200 million years for thorium titanite - were obtained for minerals from ore bodies in the Kuturtyubinsk massif associated with alkali massifs of the Alai range. Figures of the same order were obtained for the Urusay massif, a continuation of the Kuturtyubinsk massif.

The publishing activity of the Commission for the Determination of Absolute Age consisted in preparing for the press the Trudy of the I, II, III, IV, V, VI, VII, and VIII Sessions, and the Byulleten' of the I, II, III and IV Sessions.

The Trudy of the Commission are a collection of papers read at its annual meetings, containing information on the results of the study of absolute age.

The Byulleten' gives brief information on the more important new data and achievement in the field of the absolute age determination for geologic formations, by radioactive methods, both in the USSR and abroad.

Published in the Byulleten' are scientific communications on radiology and on laboratory methods used in the study of minerals in the determination of their absolute age; the results of new determination obtained both in the USSR and abroad; reviews in the field of geochronology; and the results of foreign study (reports, annotated translations).

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